

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /066 W  
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R 082130Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1068

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 17699

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE RADICAL SOCIALIST PARTY

REFS: (A) PARIS A-285; (B) PARIS 17394

SUMMARY. ON JULY 4 JEAN-JACQUES SERVAN-SCHREIBER (JJSS), CENTRISTS DEPUTY FROM NANCY AND PRESIDENT SINCE 1971 OF THE RADICAL SOCIALIST PARTY, ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS STEPPING DOWN FROM HIS PARTY'S PRESIDENCY. GAGRIEL PERONNET, A LONGTIME COLLEAGUE OF JJSS', WAS ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY. IT IS HIGHLY POSSIBLE THAT JJSS' MOVE WAS MADE WITH A VIEW TO REENTERING GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. AS ANTICIPATED IN PARA 8 REF B, JEAN-JACQUES SERVAN-SCHREIBER (JJSS) OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF THE PARTI RADICAL SOCIALISTE (PRS) ON JULY 4. HE GAVE THREE REASONS FOR  
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HIS DECISION. THE FIRST IS THAT HE WOULD HAVE ARRIVED

AT THE END OF HIS TERM AS PRESIDENT IN AUTUMN 1975 AND THAT, SINCE THE PRESIDENCY IS NOT RENEWABLE, HE WAS REALLY ONLY ADVANCING AN INEVITABLE STEP BY A COUPLE OF MONTHS. SECONDLY, HE DECLARED THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF PROMOTING THE RADICAL CAUSE IN FRANCE, HE WAS STEPPING ASIDE FROM HIS POSITION OF LEADERSHIP. IT WILL BE REMEMBERED THAT IN JANUARY 1975 JJSS UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO PUSH A NUMBER OF REFORMS IN PRS' STATUTES. IN FACT, THE PRS IS THE OLDEST STILL EXISTING POLITICAL PARTY IN FRANCE. NEITHER WAS JJSS ABLE TO SURMOUNT THE MORE CONSERVATIVE STRAIN IN THE PARTY NOR WAS HE ABLE TO WIN OVER TO HIS VIEWPOINT THE NUMEROUS ENEMIES HE HAD MADE IN HIS OWN PARTY. FINALLY, HE STATED HE WISHED TO DEVOTE MORE OF HIS TIME TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FRANCE, PARTICULARLY IN HIS AREA OF LORRAINE.

2. AT THE SAME TIME THAT JJSS ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION, GABRIEL PERONNET, WHO WAS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRS, WAS ELEVATED TO THE POST OF PRESIDENT. THE SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP IS THE NUMBER TWO POSITION IN THE PRS, AND PERONNET HAS HELD IT SINCE 1973. HIS CANDIDACY WAS SUPPORTED BY ALL THE PRS DELEGATIONS PRESENT AT THE JULY 4 MEETING. PERONNET'S ANNOUNCED GOAL IS TO "LOOSEN" THE CENTER AND REUNITE THE RADICAL FAMILY. HE ALSO HOPES TO OVERSEE THE DRAWING UP OF A GENERAL CHARTER FOR THE FEDERATION DES REFORMATEURS (REF A PARA 2). THE POSITION OF SECRETARY GENERAL WENT TO BRIGITTE GROS, A SENATOR FROM THE PARIS SUBURB OF YVELINES AND THE SISTER OF JJSS.

3. GABRIEL PERONNET BECAME A DEPUTY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1962. BY PROFESSION A VETERINARIAN BUT BY TEMPERAMENT A POLITICIAN, PERONNET IS ONE OF THE

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USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /066 W  
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R 082130Z JUL 75  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1069  
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE  
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CLOSEST COLLABORATORS OF JJSS. HE IS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S REFORMIST GROUP AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE ON ITS FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS HE HAS BEEN A CLOSE EMBASSY CONTACT AND IN FACT IN 1972 HE RECEIVED A LEADER GRANT TO THE US. IN JUNE 1974 HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE POST OF STATE SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT, BECOMING IN OCTOBER OF THE SAME YEAR STATE SECRETARY FOR CIVIL SERVICE. PERONNET WHO DECLARES HIMSELF A RADICAL FROM "TOP TO BOTTOM", IS A DYNAMIC, FORCEFUL MAN, EXCELLENT AT PUBLIC RELATIONS. AFTER, HOWEVER, THE MORE OR LESS INTELLECTUAL AND INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP OF JJSS, PERONNET WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MODIFY THE VIBRANT STYLE OF PRS LEADERSHIP UNDER JJSS.

4. COMMENT. FRANCE IS RIFE WITH RUMORS AND DENIALS OF IMPENDING CABINET CHANGES FOR LATE SUMMER OR EARLY AUTUMN. IN SPITE OF JJSS' REPUTATION AS A HOTHEAD, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT HE WAS ASKED TO RESIGN FROM HIS MINISTERIAL POSITION ON JUNE 9, 1974 (AFTER ONLY THIRTEEN DAYS ON THE JOB) FOR HIS OUTSPOKEN STANCE AGAINST FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS, THERE IS NEVERTHELESS BELIEF THAT HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF THE PRS WAS DONE TO SET HIMSELF UP TO REENTER THE GOVERNMENT. HIS CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING REMAINS REGULAR AND CLOSE. IN FACT, IN HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION HE MENTIONS THE UTTER FAITH HE HOLDS IN GISCARD AS A REFORMER. FURTHERMORE, FRANCOISE GIROUD, CURRENT STATE SECRETARY FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND A CLOSE COLLABORATOR, BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND POLITICAL, OF JJSS

HAS RECENTLY HINTED, PARTIALLY BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES WITH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC, THAT SHE MIGHT LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE SHOULD AN OPPORTUNITY PROVIDE ITSELF FOR HER TO DO SO. THIS INCREASES THE POSSIBILITY THAT JJSS WILL GET A MINISTERIAL POST AT SOME FUTURE TIME. AS FAR AS PERONNET IS CONCERNED, ALTHOUGH HE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL ONLY REMAIN PRESIDENT OF THE PRS UNTIL THE AUTUMN CONFERENCE, IT IS GENERALLY FELT THAT THE CHANCES ARE EXCELLENT HE WILL BE REELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY.  
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## Message Attributes

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